

In the Specification:

On page 4, lines 1-5, please replace the first paragraph with the following:

B
Figs. 2A and 2B illustrate Northern blot analysis of expression of human MUC18 in different prostate cancer cell lines. Poly(A)⁺RNA was isolated from human melanoma cells SK-MEL-28 (SK), human melanocyte (M), and human prostate cancer cells PC-3 (PC-3), DU145 (DU), TSU-PR-1 (TSUPR1), and LNCAP (LNCAP). The size of the human MUC18 mRNA is 3.3 kb. The amount of poly(A)⁺RNA (2.5 to 10 μ g) is indicated as a number on top of each lane.

On page 16, line 9 through page 17, line 8, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 16-17 with the following:

b 2
Only the middle fragment of the human MUC18 protein can be induced by IPTG to express in a high amount in *E. coli* K-12 strain BL-21. Thus, only this protein is further purified for immunization. When culture A_{600} reaches 0.6 (2 to 3 hours after 1/100 inoculation of an overnight culture in L-broth with ampicillin), the expression of the recombinant middle fragment of MUC18 protein fused to GST in recombinant *E. coli* is induced by addition of 0.1 mM of IPTG to 3-liter cultures (1.5 liters per 4-liter baffled flask). Two hours after addition of IPTG at 37°C, cells are harvested by centrifugation at 3,000 rpm (2,323 x g) for 20 min in a horizontal HG-4L rotor in Sorvall RC-3 centrifuge. The cell pellet is suspended in 40 ml of ice-cold PBS (10 mM Na₂HPO₄, 1.8 mM KH₂PO₄, 2.7 mM KCl, and 140 mM NaCl, pH 7.3) and then lysed with a prechilled French pressure cell at 800 psi. The lysate is clarified by centrifugation for two to three times at 13,000 rpm (21,000 x g) for 30 min in SS-34 rotor in Sorvall RC-2 centrifuge. The protein concentration of the clear crude lysate adjusted to 10 mg/ml protein (about 60 ml) was used as the starting material for purification. The recombinant MUC18 proteins are purified from the clear crude lysate by batchwise adsorption to the Glutathione-Sepharose 4B affinity resin (about 20 ml of 50% slurry) by inversion on an inversion shaker at room temperature for 30 min. The GST portion of the fusion protein mediates the binding of the protein to the resin via the glutathione. After twice washing with 10 volumes (50 ml per 5 ml packed resin) of 1 X PBS and followed by twice washing with 1